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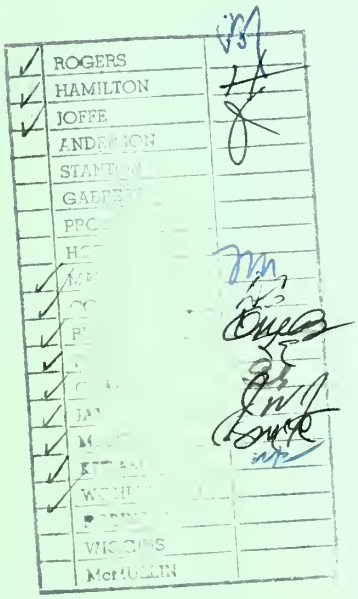
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1952



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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the December 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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WEATHER:	Warm, dry, little wind. Snow depths.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers on annual leave & trip to Florissant. Robinson & Wright to Michigan for trucks. Hamilton, Joffe, Brown, Condon, Evans to Livingston Rod & Gun Club meet. Hotchkiss to Billings re payroll audit. Trip made 3rd to Snake River & around park without chains. Most roads closed 6th. C. S. exam. Dec. 26 holiday. Explorer Scout group in West on snowshoes to Old Faithful.	1-2
INSPECTIONS:	USGS man in re snow gauges. Capt. Luce, Custer, in.	2
PUBLICITY:	169,000 broadsides on hand.	2
IN-SERVICE TRAINING:	Small arms & target practice. Accident pamphlet distributed. Building fire film. Weekly News.	2-3
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Little done due leave, etc.	3
MAINTENANCE:	Plowing; sanding; most roads closed by 7th. Equipment cleaning, painting. Work on oil storage tanks. Culverts frozen shut.	3
CONSTRUCTION:	Inactive; sidewalk prefabrication starting soon.	3
COMPLAINTS:	One complaint received re indifference concessioner employees.	3
CONCESSIONERS:	Y.P.Co. printer on leave. Hayneses visit park.	3
RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CHAPEL USE:	Sunday School, church, Youth Fellowship meeting & pageant.	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Condon presented programs Clyde Park PTA & Gardiner Lions Club.	4
MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS:	Rock specimens sent schools. Negatives to Museum Branch for moose exhibit.	4

		Page
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Marler geyser basin studies at Old Faithful.	4
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	Mrs. Quist employed part time. Nature Notes completed.	4
INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:	738 visitors, 184 vehicles; last Dec. 1810 people, 590 cars; decrease due poor hunting season near park.	4
RANGER SERVICE:	East Gate closed 7th. Jones on Wind Cave history part time. Hunting patrols Bechler, North Boundary. Ski, horseback, highway patrols. Building fire inspections; baiting elk; trail signs; target practice.	4-5
WILDLIFE AND FISH: ELK MANAGEMENT:	Gallatin census; poor season, not extended. Poor hunting northern herd; 10 taken. None trapped.	5
BISON:	Expect trap or slaughter avoid interference elk trapping.	5
FISH:	Fishing regulations revisions submitted.	6
FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:	Work on Fire Atlas, Annual Forestry Report, Master Plan Outline. Gorsuch resigned; finished equipment checking & records.	6
BLISTER RUST;	To purchase trucks, etc. from Bur. Ento.	6
BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION:	Mammoth hazard inspections completed; conditions good. Suggestion from Region forest fire trucks be equipped with ladders, extinguishers. Needs listed. Training films.	6-7
TRAILS:	Equipment bought & work done trail signs. Tools sharpened.	7
VISITORS:	Ross Madden, photographer; Farm Bureau group; Viking Pictures photographers; Hirsts from Mt. McKinley.	7
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	No cases. Commissioner away since 13th.	7
ACCIDENTS:	Two Class A accidents.	7
BIRTHS:	Son born to Lawrence Murrays.	7
MARRIAGES:	Ruth Elizabeth Shaw & Donald G. Kern married.	7
DEATHS:	Deaths of Elizabeth Allan, retired Telephone Operator, and Sue Rogers, sister of Supt. Rogers.	8

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PERSONNEL:	Louis Gunzel promoted to Sup. Park Ranger GS-6. Services Helen Tracy, seas. Clerk-Steno., terminated. Advised of reallocation & promotion Supt. Rogers to GS-14. Alice Kohout, Clerk-Steno. on extended leave. Advised of transfer Park Ranger Lubert de Freese to Rocky Mtn. Gerald Rowe, Engineer GS-9, departed on transfer to Region Four. Robert Gorsuch, Smoke-Jumper Squad Leader, resigned. Services Betty Jane Thomas, seasonal Clerk-Typist terminated. Asst. Chief Ranger Leon Evans advised of selection Asst. Supt., GS-11, Big Bend.	8
MISCELLANEOUS:	FBU meeting. Annual meeting & election officers Yellowstone Skiers. AFGE meeting. School Christmas program.	8-9

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 8, 1953

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for December 1952

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of December 1952:

Weather Conditions. Temperatures were above normal while the amount of precipitation was below normal for the month. Below zero temperatures were recorded on three days occurring on December 24, 25 and 26. Precipitation fell in the form of snow on 17 days; however, it was in light amounts on all 17 days except for December 7 and 20 at which time 0.28 inches and 0.21 inches, respectively, were recorded. No outstanding amounts of high winds were noted this month. The highest temperature of 42° was recorded on the 15th while the lowest temperature was minus 6° on the 24th.

Snow depths as of December 31 for the representative stations in the park are as follows: Mammoth - 5.5", Tower Fall - 12", West Yellowstone - 26", Northeast Entrance - 18", Lake 15.6", Canyon - 23", Gallatin - 12", and Snake River - 30".

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was on annual leave from his assignment in Denver December 1-28, inclusive, except from December 9-12 during which time he was on an inspection of Florissant Petrified Forest National Monument in Colorado.

Mechanical Supervisor Robinson and Storekeeper Wright departed December 2 for Highland Park, Michigan, to drive back two Ford 1½-ton stake trucks, returning the 9th.

Assistant Superintendent Hamilton, Administrative Assistant Joffe, Chief Ranger Brown, Park Naturalist Condon and Assistant Chief Ranger Evans attended the annual meeting of the Park County Rod and Gun Club in Livingston the evening of December 18.

Payroll Supervisor Hotchkiss made a trip to Billings, Montana, December 16 to discuss Yellowstone payroll audit with General Accounting Office personnel.

On December 3 Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman and District Ranger Nelson made a trip by automobile without chains to Snake River via Old Faithful and returning via Canyon. It is unusual for a trip of this kind to be made so late in the year. On the night of the 6th all park roads with the exception of that from Gardiner to Mammoth to the Northeast Entrance and Cooke which is open the year-around were definitely closed to all travel.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination December 6 for Junior Management Assistant, for which there was one competitor. Personnel Assistant Proper conducted the examination.

Friday December 26 was declared a legal holiday by Executive Order of the President and practically all employees, except the few whose services could not be spared, were excused for the day.

A group of five Explorer Scouts and a leader from Bozeman, Montana, entered the West Entrance on the 26th via snowshoes for a trip to Old Faithful. Each man carried a bed and food for a ten-day trip. The group arrived at Old Faithful on the 29th and left there on the 31st for West Yellowstone. Two previous attempts in past years by the group to snowshoe to Old Faithful were unsuccessful.

Inspections. J. R. Spofford, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, entered park via West Yellowstone December 5 to inspect stream gauging stations and to prepare them for winter operation.

Edward S. Luce, Superintendent, Custer Battlefield National Monument, arrived December 8 to discuss matters pertaining to his area, departing the next day.

Publicity. 169,000 Yellowstone broadsides remained on hand at the end of December.

In-Service Training. Ten members of the Protection Division received an average of three hours each of training in handling small arms and target practice on December 11.

A large supply of pamphlets entitled "Highway Accidents are Definitely Engineered" published by the International Harvester Company were obtained and a copy of this was distributed to each employee.

Mechanical Supervisor Robinson ran off 16mm sound motion picture film on safety and building fire fighting for the enlightenment of Park Service employees.

The Yellowstone Weekly News was issued regularly during the month to keep employees, concessioners and others currently informed of park happenings.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Due to the departure of Gerald A.Rowe, Assistant Engineer, December 16 on transfer from this area and the fact that the engineering and architect forces were on annual leave a good part of the month, little was done on plans, maps or surveys.

Maintenance. December had several rather cold days, but only small amounts of precipitation. Snow plows made a number of trips to Cooke. Snow at Mammoth runs from six to eight inches and 18 to 20 inches at Cooke. Sanding of icy sections was required all during the month. Snow and high winds completely closed all roads out into the park on the 7th. This is much later than usual.

Some equipment was cleaned and painted. Insulation and a metal cover was placed on two of the three oil storage tanks at Gardiner. The old steam heating plant was removed. The electric heating elements placed in the three tanks. As soon as weather permits the new electric pump and piping will be installed.

The lack of an early snow cover has caused several culverts to freeze shut.

Construction. There were no active construction projects under way during the month but it is expected that the prefabrication of wooden sidewalks will be started in the near future.

Complaints. One letter of complaint was received during the month regarding the indifference of employees the second week in September at the Hamilton soda fountain at Old Faithful and those attending to cabin reservations.

Concessioners. Joe Bill, Manager, Yellowstone Park Company Print Shop, left December 9 on Christmas vacation and expects to return January 16.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Haynes of Haynes, Inc. visited in the park December 11 from their winter home in Bozeman, Montana.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Sunday School services were held each Sunday during the month with the exception of December 28.

On December 14 the Rev. Fee of Livingston, Montana, conducted the inter-denominational Protestant services at 7:30 p.m. in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel.

On December 14 the Youth Fellowship organization met in the Yellowstone Park Chapel and on December 21 this same group

presented a very fine pageant in the Chapel. The theme of the pageant was "The Light of the World". This program was well attended by the members of the communities of Gardiner and Mammoth.

Interpretive Services. Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented two outside programs during the month - one on December 15 to the P.T.A. organization and their guests at Clyde Park, Montana, at 8:30 p.m. The movie presented was "Geyserland"; there were 140 people in attendance. On December 23 he presented the Christmas program for the Lions Club in Gardiner, Montana. There were 54 persons in attendance.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Collections of hand specimens representing the common rocks of Yellowstone were sent to several high schools for use in their educational work in school museums.

A number of negatives were sent to the Museum Branch, Washington, for their use in preparing illustrations to be used in the moose wayside exhibit for Willow Park.

Research and Observation. The geyser basin observations were continued by Park Naturalist Marler throughout the month of December and he reports that the Giant erupted 13 times, the Grand maintained an average of a 48 hour interval, the Daisy was active only once during December and the Splendid had several active phases during the month.

Natural History Association. Mrs. Alice Quist worked 24 hours during the month for the Association and is expected to return to part-time employment during the month of January.

The publication Yellowstone Park Nature Notes was completed and placed in the mail on December 11.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 738 visitors in 184 vehicles entered the park this month as compared with 1,810 persons in 590 vehicles for the same month last year. This large drop in travel was the result of very poor hunting in the Gardiner area. The large majority of the travel last year was accounted for by elk hunters in the Gardiner area who were driving into the park to view the game animals between the North Entrance and Cooke. Park roads, except from Gardiner to Cooke were definitely closed to all travel the night of the 6th.

Ranger Service. The East Entrance Ranger Station was closed for the winter on the 7th and Supervisory Park Ranger E. L. Arnold was moved to park headquarters. Arrangements were made for the winterkeeper at Pahaska Tepee to spend one day each pay period checking on the buildings at East Entrance and removing snow.

Supervisory Park Ranger Harold N. Jones spent several days working on a research project in connection with Wind Cave National Park history.

Two members of the Protection Division spent about ten days at Bechler River Ranger Station patrolling the park boundaries during the hunting season there from the 10th through the 15th. Regular hunting patrols were maintained along the north boundary although comparatively little hunting was being done due to absence of elk. Other patrol activities included ski patrols by the rangers at South and West Entrance stations and horseback patrols in the Upper Lamar area and over the elk range in the northern section of the park. Highway patrols from West were made over the Gallatin road section frequently for protection of the public, accident investigation and to prevent poaching in this area.

Other activities included building fire inspections of the buildings in the Mammoth area, baiting and attempting to trap elk, preparation of trail signs and inspection of district activities. A total of 30 man-hours of In-Service Training by rangers was spent in handling small arms and target practice.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ELK MANAGEMENT. Montana Fish and Game Department personnel counted 1,316 elk in the upper Gallatin area by using an airplane on December 16. This was followed by a ground count on December 30, when Gallatin National Forest, Fish and Game Department and National Park Service personnel counted 1,252 elk in the same area. Conditions for counting were not good due to a light snow cover which resulted in some elk remaining in forested areas where they could not be seen. The total harvest of elk by hunters from the Gallatin herd during the 1952 season was 80 animals but the Montana Fish and Game Commission took no action to extend the season beyond December 1.

The northern elk herd remained widely distributed over the intermediate and upper portions of the winter range during the entire month. Only about ten elk were taken by hunters in December and the game checking station at Corwin Springs was not operated.

Hay was used to attract elk to the vicinity of the Lamar, Blacktail and Crystal Creek traps but this baiting was moderately successful only at Crystal Creek. The light snow cover left much natural forage available and elk showed little interest in hay. No live elk was trapped or shipped in December.

BISON. The Lamar bison herd remained above or across the river from the Lamar Unit and could not be attracted to the corrals or trapped. It is planned to hold most of the herd in the corrals during the elk trapping season to avoid interference at the traps and to remove some animals, which cannot be trapped, by

by slaughter. However, operations probably will be delayed until weather and snow conditions encourage the bison to seek hay in the vicinity of the corrals.

FISH. Proposed revisions of the fishing regulations to be in effect during the 1953 season were submitted on December 9. Provision is made for Yellowstone Lake and the Yellowstone River above Canyon to remain closed through June to protect spawning fish and prevent depletion of the lake fishery. If proposed revisions are approved, Grebe, Wolf, and Riddle Lakes will be open to fishing on July 1.

Forest Fire Protection. Material for inclusion in the Fire Atlas was compiled and prepared during December. This work consisted of making Fire Occurrence Maps, Personnel Location Maps and Westher Charts covering the past fire season.

The Annual Forestry Report was completed with the exception of the section on Blister Rust Control. It is hoped the Annual Report of the Bureau of Entomology dealing with Blister Rust activities in Yellowstone will be received before it is necessary to transmit the Forestry Report in order that their pertinent comments can be included.

Portions of the Master Plan Outline dealing with forestry were prepared and transmitted to the Region Two Office.

Smokejumper Squad Leader Gorsuch resigned at the close of business on December 19. Before leaving he finished checking the fire equipment in the Mammoth Fire Cache and brought the property records up to date.

Blister Rust Control. Word was received from the General Services Administration that Yellowstone could purchase the 1½-ton Chevrolet stake body truck from the Bureau of Entomology. This transaction was completed before the end of December. It is planned that Yellowstone personnel will go to Spokane and Clarkia after the first of the year and get the vehicle as well as some camp equipment which is to be used next season in the pack camp.

Building Fire Protection. The inspection of buildings for fire hazards was completed in Mammoth during December and all fire extinguishers were checked. Conditions generally were found to be good and much improvement in the correction of previously reported hazards was noted.

The Regional Office has suggested that all trucks used in forest fire suppression be equipped with ladders and extinguishers suitable for building fire control. A list of the needed equipment was submitted for purchase when funds are available.

Yellowstone National Park

A film on survival from atomic bombing was shown in the canteen for the community on December 15. Three films on fire brigade training have been received from the Los Angeles Fire Department and these will be shown to the Mammoth brigade and the protection division immediately after the first of the year. The National Board of Fire Underwriters have been requested to furnish a number of films suitable for training and which also will be of interest to the whole community.

Trails. Several pieces of power equipment were purchased and work has been started on the fabrication of trail signs. To date approximately 50 are in the process of being completed.

All hand tools used in trail work were sharpened and put in good condition for next summer.

Visitors. Ross Madden, well-known photographer who has photographed in the park for many years and whose pictures have appeared in Life, Time, Colliers and other leading magazines, was a visitor at Mammoth December 2 to look into the possibility of taking some snow pictures in the park this winter.

An Eastern Farm Bureau group of 140 people made a trip to Mammoth on Northern Pacific Railway buses from Livingston December 13.

Arnold Whitaker and William Miller, photographers for Viking Pictures Corp. of Chicago, in December 26 to make movies of park scenes for use in a travel picture to be released by that company for Chrysler Corporation; out 28th.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank T. Hirst, formerly of Yellowstone and now at Mt. McKinley National Park, Alaska, where Mr. Hirst is Chief Park Ranger, in December 31 for visit.

Law Enforcement. No law enforcement cases were handled by the U. S. Commissioner this month. Judge and Mrs. James W. Brown left for Christmas vacation December 13, expecting to return January 17.

Accidents and Public Safety. Only two motor vehicle accidents were reported during the month, both being Class "A" accidents.

Births. A son, Paul Craig, was born to Electrician Foreman and Mrs. Lawrence Murray at the Park Hospital in Livingston December 20.

Marriages. Miss Ruth Elizabeth Shaw of Cody, Wyoming, and Park Ranger Donald G. Kern were married at the Episcopal Church in Cody on December 6.

Deaths. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Allan, who retired August 31 as Telephone Operator after more than 28 years of service with the National Park Service in Yellowstone National Park, died at the Park Hospital in Livingston on December 11. Funeral services were held December 15 at the Franzen Mortuary in Livingston. Her husband, Eri A. Allan, who retired here March 31, 1950, as Powerhouse Operator, preceded her in death April 6, 1952.

Miss Sue Rogers, sister of Superintendent Rogers, passed away at Denver, Colorado, December 17 after a lingering illness.

Personnel. Louis L. Gunzel received a promotion (indefinite) from Park Ranger, GS-5 to Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-6, effective December 7.

The services of Helen B. Tracy, seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, were terminated at the close of December 12.

Advice was received December 12 of the reallocation of the position of Superintendent and promotion (indefinite) of Edmund B. Rogers from GS-13 to GS-14, effective November 26.

Alice A. Kohout, Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4, departed December 15 on annual leave and leave without pay until April 12.

Advice was received December 16 of the reassignment (indefinite) and change of headquarters for Lubert F. de Freese, Park Ranger, GS-5, to the same position in Rocky Mountain National Park, to be effective January 4. The de Freeses departed on the 30th.

Gerald A. Rowe, Engineer (Civil), GS-9, departed December 16 on annual leave prior to reporting for duty January 19 in a similar position in the Region Four Office.

Robert V. Gorsuch, Fire Control Aid (Smoke-Jumper Squad Leader), GS-6, resigned at the close of December 19 to accept appointment with the Forest Service at Libby, Montana.

The services of Betty Jane Thomas, seasonal Clerk-Typist, were terminated at the close of December 19.

W. Leon Evans, Assistant Chief Ranger, GS-9, received notice December 22 of selection as Assistant Superintendent, GS-11, Big Bend National Park.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of Federal Employees Union No. 465 was held in the Canteen December 1.

At the annual meeting of the Yellowstone Skiers December 7 the following officers and board members were elected for 1952:

Otto Brown, President; Melvin Thuring, Vice-President; Icel Wright, Secretary-Treasurer; Thomas Schoder and William Biastoch, Board Members.

The regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees was held in the Canteen December 15.

The Mammoth Grade School Christmas program was presented in the Canteen the evening of December 19.

Warren F. Hamilton
Acting Superintendent

In duplicate

cc Region Two, in quintuple

Files (2)

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Yellowstone Park, Wyoming